

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

The discussion granted by Examiner Beatty on November 3, 2005 regarding the Office Action is hereby acknowledged and is sincerely appreciated. During this discussion, Applicants' attorney noted that the Office Action makes reference to the patent to Fujimoto et al. in paragraph 8 of the Office Action but no such reference is listed in either the PTO 1449 or PTO 891. In response thereto, the Examiner confirmed that this reference should instead be Fujimori et al. and thus, in the remarks set forth below, this distinction has been drawn.

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive and has therefore now been amended to be more descriptive.

The drawings have been objected to with respect to Figure 3. In response thereto, a substitute Figure 3 is submitted herewith.

With respect to the objection to the Abstract, such has now been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1, 4, 29 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by JP 2000-155516 ('516); Claims 21-24 and 37-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Castelli et al. '789; Claims 13-16 and 33-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Castelli et al. in view of Kobayashi '786; Claims 2-3 and 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP '516 in view of Castelli et al.; Claims 7, 10, 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP '516 in view of Fujimori et al.; Claims 8-9 and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP '516 in view of Fujimori et al. and Castelli et al.; Claims 17-20 and 35-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Castelli et al. in view of Kobayashi and Fujimori et al. and Claims 25-28

and 39-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Castelli et al. in view of Fujimori et al. Claims 1-40 remain active.

It is to be noted that the present invention is directed to an electrophotographic color image forming apparatus of the present invention includes a plurality of image forming sections each including an image carrier and image transferring means. Toner images of different colors are sequentially transferred from the image carriers to a sheet being conveyed by an endless belt while electrostatically adhering to the belt, completing a color toner image. Assuming that the surface of each image carrier and that of the belt move at speeds of  $V_d$  and  $V_b$ , respectively, the ratio of  $V_b/V_d$  can be varied by the user of the apparatus. In addition, assuring that a surface of a recording medium move at speeds of  $V_p$  and  $V_i$ , respectively, the ratio of  $V_p/V_i$  can be varied by the user. As mentioned in the specification, either the belt speed or the speed of movement of the recording medium can be maintained constant and results in the simplification of the structure of the apparatus and the user's operation for image formation (cd. page 8, lines 11-18; page 9, lines 10-12; page 15, lines 20-24 and page 20, lines 8-10, for example).

Considering then the above-noted rejection of each of independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31-40, it is noted that each of these independent claims have now been amended so as to specify either that the speed  $V_b$  of the belt is maintained substantially constant or that the speed  $V_i$  of the recording movement is maintained substantially constant. Insofar as this is contrary to the teachings of JP '516, or Castelli et al. '789 or any of the remaining references of record, it is submitted that each of these independent claims now merit indication of allowability. In view of this and in view of the limitations set forth in each of the dependent claims and the fact that the secondary references cited in the present application do not teach the limitations noted above added to the

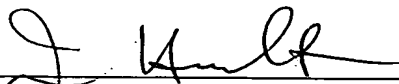
Application No. 10/724,099  
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2005.

independent claims, it is submitted that all claims now pending merit indication of allowability.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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